THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

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EAST LONDON BABIES AND MONTESSORI: By Muriel Matters

It is now six weeks since we took seven children, whose ages ranged from 3 to 4½ years, from the nursery into the Montessori class. We had tried to make the room allotted to us at the Mothers' Arms suitable in every way to their age and size.

Mr. William Lansbury very generously gave us little tables, small and light enough for the children to move about the room. He also made us a piece of furniture from which the children take the Montessori material and when finished with they put back in order. The shelves in the cupboard he made low enough for the children to use also. This is having a marked effect, and already they show a keen sense of order. We converted a long bench into a toilet table and placed thereon small basins and jugs, soap bowls (with pieces of soap and nail brushes small enough for the tiny hands), and on the rail at the back we fixed hooks for holding the towels.

To Mrs. Jessie Lansbury we are indebted for a double set of towels and also small squares for washing the face. The children have their own brushes and combs placed in an accessible satchel along the wall.

Mrs. Savoy very kindly made the brushes at cost price. We hope soon to have tooth brushes and dental attendance also.

All these toilet utensils are a great joy to the children, and they are learning to do many things for themselves.

Miss Gunn and I enjoyed looking round the local shops for suitable household articles—tiny brooms, dust pans, dusters, miniature tins of bluebell and polishes for door knobs and other fasteners placed within reach of the children's nimble fingers. These things have made the exercises of practical life not only a successful means of education, but have given great satisfaction to these little people longing for self-expression and activity.

We were getting along beautifully, with four boys and three girls, and were just being initiated to the Montessori apparatus and enjoying marching on the line to Miss Napier's music, when, alas! sickness seized first one and then another, until we had only two of the original number left. One has since returned after an absence of three weeks. Of course, we had to fill their places, for we couldn't fail the promoters of the Exhibition this week. But if the children could speak on the subject they would say: "We warn everybody that we are quite new to our environment and that we are all very young, two of us (twin girls) are only three years old; and we really ought not to be on exhibition for at least another six months. But we rely on the 'grown ups' who come to see us to sit down quietly in our class room and to observe silence, and above all not to touch our work whilst we are doing it, for we take it very seriously. Then all will go well, and they will see that children are not really disobedient, or naughty, or lazy."

NEXT WEEK.

Christmas Number

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QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

ADULT SUFFRAGE IN THE LORDS

When Lord Salisbury's Parliamentary Register and Elections (War Facilities) Bill came up for the report stage in the House of Lords on November 30th, Lord Haversham moved that it was inexpedient to proceed with the measure, on the ground that the War Office, the Admiralty and the Ministry of Munitions were opposed to a Trench Election. Lord Middleton protested that if the House of Lords did not act no new Register would be forthcoming.

Lord Lansdowne, for the Government, said that the Naval and Military authorities were opposed to giving soldiers and sailors opportunities for recording their votes, and that the Government would await the decision of the Speaker's Conference.

* * * *

In reply to Mr. Glanville, who pointed out that 52 per cent. of the men of Bermondsey are disqualified from voting, Mr. Long said: The Government is not at this moment proposing any alteration of the general franchise laws of this country. The question of the franchise, with others, is engaging the attention of the conference now sitting upstairs.

Wait and see!

BISHOP BURY AND RUHLEBEN

Bishop Bury's report on the internment camp at Ruhleben has confirmed the statements for which Miss Emily Hobhouse and Dr. Ella Scarlett Synge have been so bitterly condemned.

COLOURED LABOUR

Though most people have failed to realise it, the proposals to bring negroes from Africa to work in this country is an accomplished fact! We notice that the Rev. John H. Harris, hon. secretary of the Committee for the Welfare (Welfare!) of Africans in Europe, is appealing for £10,000 to build large heated recreation huts in the centre of the compounds in which the men will be housed. He writes nonsensically about the "sons of Africa willingly forsaking their sunny lands and happy homes, content to brave the dangers of the sea and the rigours of our climate in order that they may help the Mother Country." Mrs. Ethel Wedgwood, in a powerful letter to the "Manchester Guardian," exposes the folly and hypocrisy of such words, explaining the conditions of slavery under which coloured men are made to work in white communities and the usual manner of their recruitment by bribing the native chiefs to supply so many head of the "black cattle" under their control.

THE WELSH MINERS AGAIN

On December 4th, at a conference of the Merthyr miners, it was decided to strike for one day as a protest if the Civil Liberties Peace Negotiations Adjourned Conference should be broken up. Mr. Stanton continued organising to prevent the conference, both by preparations for disorder and demands that the conference should be prohibited by the Home Office.

The Government has not hitherto scrupled to suppress both peace meetings and literature and to throw peace advocates into gaol, but a miners' strike is not a thing to be trifled with, and in this instance the Government thought discretion the better part of valour. Therefore Mr. Herbert Samuel wrote to Mr. Stanton asking him to "ignore" the conference, and Mr. Stanton replied that he would do so, as he did not wish to advertise the conference.

Certainly the Welsh miners have scored.

The strike in the South Wales Coal Mines has been averted by a Defence of the Realm Act order, placing the mines under the control of the Board of Trade until further notice and by granting the miners a 15 per cent. increase in wages, whilst an audit is being made.

The Order states that the coal mines shall "pass into the possession of the Board of Trade." The Government intention undoubtedly was that the mines will still belong to the mine-owners, in spite of the pretence that Board of Trade would possess them. The Press confidently announced that the Government would limit prices, profits, and wages, but it appeared that the mine-owners need fear any more drastic interference with their privileges than the owners of controlled munition factories have had to meet. There seemed no reason to believe that their profits will be reduced; probably they will be increased. But something appears to have happened: the details of the scheme are still in the melting pot. Evidently the miners are not so easy to deal with as were the munition workers. They will probably insist that State ownership shall be real and not nominal. Moreover, it is unlikely that they will consent to the restrictions which hold the munition workers in a vice.

The strike is averted which the miners threatened to enforce the increase of wages they demanded, and to which the rules of the coalfield entitled them in accordance with the rise in the selling price of coal. But at their last conference the miners also threatened a strike to enforce Government action to prevent the continued increase in the cost of living. The promise to appoint a Food Controller seems to have placated the miners for the time being, but unless the Food Controller takes drastic action the miners will certainly take further steps. If the taking over of the mines merely stereotypes wages and coal prices, and allows the cost of food to go on rising there will be trouble in the South Wales coal field before long.

* * * *

The conference organised by the Fabian Research Department on the Restoration of Trade Union Conditions after the War was held on November 30th, at 5 p.m., in the Fabian Hall, 25 Tothill Street, Westminster. The question under consideration was "Demarcation and the Relations between Skilled and Semi-Skilled Men."

The most interesting, and in some ways the most hopeful, feature of the Conference, was the recognition by practically everyone who spoke of the fact that demarcation disputes and quarrels between different grades of workers could benefit only the employers. All united in recognising that in the great reckoning which is coming at the end of the War the employers would strain every nerve to play off men against women, women against men, skilled against unskilled, and labourer against artisan.

Nor was this the only point on which agreement was reached. Before the discussion had proceeded very far it was generally acknowledged that in Amalgamation alone—and, what is more, in Amalgamation on the lines laid down by Industrial Unionists—could a solution be found. But Amalgamation could not come in a day. The suggestion that in the meantime the disputing Unions must settle their differences and present a united front to the employers was warmly received by both parties. Consultations and Conferences between the Unions at once; Amalgamation as soon as possible—these were the lessons of the Conference. * * * *

The women of Berlin are said to be demonstrating against the Civilian Mobilisation Bill and the proposal to force women into factories.

THE SONG OF OBJECTION

Here in this grey land of tears,
The Captains and the Kings of men
Consummate the Crime of years
In reeking riot of sword and pen
And purchase with their gold and guns
The Flesh and Blood of Labour's Sons.

Hacked and battered, smashed and torn
In the storm of flame and battle,
From ghastly night to bitter morn
See the carnage of human cattle.
Hear the prayer ascend to God
From limbless things that writhe in the sod.

See the Captains and the Kings
Riding, striding above their slaves!
See the Lord of Slaughter flings
Thousands to their nameless graves.
Fathers and sons for ever sleep
For all their wives and sisters weep.

So the march of might and power
Sweeping through the tortured Land,
Sacrifices hour by hour
Those who toil with brain and hand—
Mouthing and mad with murder lust,
Trampling Freedom in the dust.

But yet in this relentless city
There are some whose golden Youth
Still is true to Love and Pity,
Still are worshippers of Truth,
Who refuse to kill or maim
Despite the prison's pain and shame.

And here in this grey land of tears,
The Captains and the Kings of Men
Add to the horror of the years
The bloody sword—the liar's pen.
But cannot buy with gold and guns
The Souls of Labour's bravest sons.

A. Young.

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Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

"MILITARY NECESSITY"

The world is full of discord. Men's hearts are straining after that evil thing with the cruel hawked beak and blood-stained talons that men call Victory. More odious is this bird of prey than are the carrion crows which swoop to feed on our dead friends lying upon the battlefields, or than the great engines of war that rain death-dealing bombs upon defenceless homes.

What should it profit me in Bow, or you in Manchester that the streets of Berlin should run with the blood of German workers? Are we not brothers and sisters in the human family after all? Yet in their madness and their fear men so long for victory that they are prepared to see vast armies of men go to their death, forcing the womanhood of the world to make the instruments of slaughter, whilst the old people and the children starve and die. Even their own sons men do not shrink from driving to the slaughter.

Victory, barren and fierce is desired as an end in itself, but material greed has added many objects to it. The German Chancellor accused the Allies of having entered into a secret agreement in 1915, to secure Constantinople and the Dardanelles for Russia, and to wrest Asia Minor from Turkey in order to divide it amongst themselves. British Ministers have refused to answer the questions of British Members of Parliament upon this; but Russian Ministers are regardless of pacifist feeling, and Mr. Trepoff, on December 2nd, said that the Allies had "established in most definite fashion the right of Russia to the Straits and to Constantinople." He also blurted out the fact that Russia intends to continue fighting and to hold the Allies to fight with her not merely until what has been known as German Poland is regained, but also until German and Austrian Poland had been conquered and united "in inseparable union with Russia."

For three-quarters of an hour the Socialists in the Duma prevented the delivery of this speech, and finally twelve of their number were expelled from the chamber. But this brave protest has not changed the Russian course: the mass of the people remain obedient to the Czar.

The knowledge that we have been dragged into an Eastern War of aggression has not yet roused the people of Great Britain. Those who are too poor, too closely wedded to privations, and hard toil to dream of victory and its spoils, are cowed with fear—the groundless fear of the invading army that will never come and of the German rule of Britain which has never been a possibility of this War, the exaggerated fear of being boycotted or imprisoned for expressing unpopular opinions or taking part in an unpopular cause.

He was a Socialist lad. He would not be a soldier. He would not be a murderer of his brothers. He stuck to his last more closely than before, and scarcely left his home. The yellow paper came. No, no, they should not take him, he would not wear the khaki. But the soldiers came for him. "They will shoot you down," his mother cried, and his father bade him go.

They drilled him and taught him how he should drive the bayonet into other men. Half-crazed with fear and horror, he broke away and tramped back to his home. He slunk in like a thief, and sat by the fire dejected with idle hands, afraid of the steps and the voices in the street, afraid of his own thoughts and his own quaking heart. The old father bade him go back to camp. The old mother wailed, "They will give your father time."

They coaxed him to go out walking with them in the dark; he went with them undeceived, knowing full well where they would have him go. Fear thrilled him at the sight of the police and soldiers, yet they could only take him back to the place where his own steps were bent.

Dragging their old weary feet, his parents walked many a mile with him, but his young feet were wearier and his strength, sapped by cold fear, was less than theirs. They took his arms and dragged him on between them. They plied him with intoxicating drink, though always until now they had implored him never to let it touch his lips. So they left him, and broken in spirit with all his manhood dead within him, he went on into Camp.

The old people turned homeward, the sight of his going graven on their memories, feeling as murderers do.

"They defend it as being war; they justify everything, however inhuman, that is done, because the military needs of Germany are alleged to call for it."

So says Lord Bryce, his words are but too true of those who in every country are striving for victory to-day.

The German Chancellor, introducing the Compulsory Civilian Service Bill from his place in the Reichstag decorated with flowers, spoke as men speak here every day, "extreme necessity demands an iron will," demands compulsion armed with the power of heavy punishment to force compliance.

"The German people is face to face with a great trial. . . . Every sacrifice is consecrated by the thought that we are all carrying forward stones for the building of a better future for the Fatherland."

"The effects of this Bill will become the life of the people and the highest freedom in the highest moral sense. Therefore away with the word 'compulsion'."

So said the Minister of the Interior and Lieutenant-General von Gröner—the iron grip, masked by false words of praise and patriotism—we know them here!

"Even if the enemy were in our midst he could not treat the population otherwise than you propose to do by your Bill," the Socialist, Vogtheer, protested. He was shouted down by the Stantons and Thornes of Germany, but his words ring true; they should be taken to heart by the workers of the belligerent nations.

The Militarist pressed on by "military necessity," if he is to win, applies compulsion alike to the home population of his country and to any other on which he can lay his hands. The German Government is conscribing the Belgian people for everything short of fighting, and it will do that also if it should prove to be possible and if "military necessity" should dictate it.

The law of alleged "military necessity" is obeyed in this country also, conscription of our own men, conscription or deportation of Russian or other refugees, the bringing of indentured Chinese and Africans to Europe are all proof of the fact, but the jingo school would have the Government accept a swifter and more complete abandonment to this law.

In these War days of fear and folly the man who is most unrestrained in his talk of hate and violence is most puffed by the Press, and in him, taught by the Press, the heedless place their trust.

Mr. Lloyd George has held up a pistol in the faces of the Prime Minister and some of his colleagues, and has said: "Make way for me, or I resign, and if I resign, I shall force you to make way by attacking you, whilst the powerful Press that supports me will tear every shred of prestige you possess to tatters, and will magnify your folly, self-interest, and incompetence until you will scarcely know yourselves."

"The Times" has taken up Lloyd George because of his foul, violent tongue, just as it took up Lord Kitchener for his ruthlessness in making War on small, weak peoples. Lloyd George has demanded a War Council of his own choosing to form a super-Cabinet. He insists that its members shall be Mr. Bonar Law, Sir Edward Carson, Mr. Arthur Henderson, and himself. Why does Mr. Lloyd George nominate Mr. Bonar Law? Because he does the bidding of "The Times" and "The Times" has chosen Mr. Bonar Law because he is the Conservative leader and a Tariff Reformer. Why Sir Edward Carson, who threatened to call the Kaiser over to fight with him in Ulster? Again, because "The Times" demands it, and not unnaturally, for Carson follows very closely Lord Northcliffe's lead. But why Mr. Arthur Henderson? As the white decoy in the Chicago stock yard, he has been chosen that he may fool the workers as long as may be, and share the infamy and blame that will be heaped upon the Government when the people awake at last.

Lloyd George has his orders from "The Times," and Lord Northcliffe will keep him sharply to the mark.

"Anything like concession or whittling down of the original proposals would produce a bitter sense of disappointment, and completely paralyse Mr. Lloyd George's influence, which was never greater than at this moment."

The warning is unmistakable.

"The Times" has become omnipotent because hardly a voice opposes its demands. The "Manchester Guardian," like other Liberal newspapers, hastily turned its coat in regard to foreign policy on the declaration of War; but until now it seemed to have remained on the whole the staunchest and sanest of Liberal newspapers. But the "Manchester Guardian" has now deserted the more temperate minds in the Cabinet, and has all but thrown in its lot with "The Times." In some directions it is at the moment displaying an even harsher and more callous desire to be guided by "military necessity." It complains that the violation of Greek neutrality committed by Gen ral Fournet in demanding a portion of the Greek artillery was not sufficient, and declares that he should have demanded all. It demands that the Greek King shall be arrested and his throne declared forfeit.

In its wounded pride and disappointment that "we are not winning the war," it roundly accu es the Government of incompetence, declaring that either the Cabinet must be reduced in size in order that power may be concentrated in a few hands, or that a new Premier and new Cabinet must be chosen. It would welcome a General Election. It accepts the nominees of "The Times" without a word of criticism, even Sir Edward Carson, provided he will not extend conscription to Ireland. This Liberal newspaper is willing that Lord Grey and Mr. McKenna should be turned out with Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Balfour, and calmly assents to placing Mr. Asquith in the humiliating position of being allowed to attend the War Council, but deprived of the right to take part in its decisions! Was ever man so churlishly served by a once-powerful and devoted henchman?

How are the mighty fallen! We can only liken the position suggested for Mr. Asquith to that of a politically helpless and economically dependent woman, who may watch her husband recklessly plunging into speculations which threaten to ruin the family, but who has no power to interfere. It was not possible that Mr. Asquith should agree to this. Naturally, he has refused.

The "Guardian" has deserted Asquith, because it asserts that the Government mismanaged the situation in Gallipoli, Salonika, Serbia, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rumania. It places its faith in Lloyd George, but Lloyd George was an old member of the Cabinet at the outbreak of hostilities: he has been a continuous member of the War Council: and as Secretary of State for War at the inception of the Rumanian campaign, he must surely bear as large a share of responsibility for its failure as any other member of the Cabinet.

We believe that the substitution of Mr. Lloyd George for Mr. Asquith, or of Sir Edward Carson for Mr. Balfour, will make very little difference to the conduct of the actual operations of war, and we notice that "The Times," which has originated and organised the demand for the supremacy of Lloyd George, bases its demand, not on the control of operations abroad, but on:

"The disastrous effects upon next year's campaign of any further delay in solving the supreme, the critical, the still unsettled question of man power."

There can be little doubt that if Mr. Lloyd George, or any other puppet of "The Times," becomes the leader of the Government, Industrial Conscription for men and women will swiftly be attempted in this country, and that a

(Continued on page 616.)

SHOULD WOMEN ORGANISE? by P. J. Dollan

It is obvious that still more women are to be dragged from their homes into industry so that the maximum man-power of the country may be released for active participation in the War, and it is on the cards that conscription of women is by no means a remote possibility. All kinds of women, young and old, feeble and strong, married and unmarried, are being urged to engage in industry; and, in many areas, canvassers actually call upon women for the purpose of inducing them to leave their homes and children for the factory or the workshop. One would have thought that the average married woman had quite enough to do in managing her household affairs and caring for her children without having to make munitions of war as well; but, no! "day and night" crèches are being organised, where the children are to be "cared for" while their mothers release men for the trenches. "Socialism," its opponents used to say, "will destroy the home"; but militarism is so busy destroying the home that there will be little or no home life to destroy when Socialism arrives.

How many women are now employed as wage-earners it is difficult to estimate, but the number must be considerable. Many of them will certainly return to domestic pursuits once Peace has been declared, leaving, however, a large number to continue in the employment thrown open to women on account of the War. It is with these latter we have to deal, as it is they who, if unorganised and lacking guidance, will constitute the menace to standard rates and conditions which trade unions dread after the War. That the menace is no phantom conjured from nothing by Socialist agitators is proved by the fact that numerous employers are now preparing to adapt their industries to be carried on by female labour after the War. For the past two weeks there has been an exhibition in Glasgow, organised by the Ministry of Munitions, for the purpose of showing employers the multifarious tasks which can be done by women—and at rates cheaper than those paid to men. One result of that exhibition will be an extension of the employment of women and a corresponding displacement of men. Commenting on the exhibition, the "Glasgow Herald" states:

"Women have proved themselves of great value in engineering shops, but it must be remembered that all discussion of their true place in industry must be reserved until the War is over. They are there as munition workers only. Their whole business is to produce articles and materials required for the prosecution of the War. They should be helped to do this by every man associated with them in industry, and they should hear nothing whatever of the claims of trade unionism, or the regulation of output. THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR ANY ATTEMPTS TO ORGANISE THEM."

So there you have it in plain terms: the women workers are not to be organised; organisation can wait until after the War—when it is too late. If the trade unions intend to prevent employers using unorganised women to reduce wages after the War, then they have got to organise the women now. For the women, the great majority of them, won't leave industry when Peace comes, as once having learned to earn their livelihood, they will insist on being allowed to continue earning their livelihood. This is their right if they care to enforce it, and if men should attempt to drive women from industry, then the women will surely make effective retaliation by underselling male labour in the industrial market. That has happened before, and will occur again if the trade unions are silly enough to make it possible. And, judging by their "do-nothing" policy, the trade unions seem silly enough for anything. If the trade unions are anxious to protect effectively the interests of labour they should embark upon a huge organising campaign, the object of which would be to enrol women in the unions and on the same terms and conditions as the men.

All the unions whose interests are "menaced" by unorganised women labour ought to come together in drafting a scheme whereby women would be admitted to membership on an equal footing with men. The operation and financing of this scheme ought to be shared by the unions according to membership and funds, and each and all of them should make an effort to organise all the women in their respective trades before demobilisation. So far only a small percentage of women have been organised, for the simple reason that the organisation of women has been the business of everybody, and consequently the business of nobody. The unions already existing for women have been too much handicapped by lack of finance and other things to undertake successfully the organisation of female war workers; although they have certainly made brave efforts to organise some women. The task, however, is one for the whole trade union movement, and it should be taken in hand by the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, who ought to have the assistance of every organised man in bringing women within the trade union fold.

The organisation of women is not impossible if gone about in the right way, and almost the first step should be the education of the trade union members as to the importance of effecting combination among the women. If the trade union officials and members would realise that the women of the working class are their comrades, co-operation with whom is necessary to overthrow capitalism, their organisation would not be difficult, as most women workers in some way or other are acquainted with trade unionists. But when we find "trade unionists" playing the capitalist game by advising their womenfolk not to join unions, it almost drives one to despair. These trade unionists, of course, think that by keeping women unorganised they are protecting themselves against female labour! They imagine that woman, and not capitalism, is the enemy of the working class! Capitalism is the common enemy of men and women, and will only be overthrown by their common action. That is why it is so important that men and women should be organised in the same unions and on terms of equality.

Long before the War the German "free" trade unions recognised the importance of organising women, and in 1905 they established a "Woman Worker's Secretariat" for the specific purpose of assisting in the organisation of women. In 1911, out of 51 "free" unions there were 33 which admitted women to membership "under the same conditions as males in all those trades where women-workers are employed." Altogether 203,574 women were organised in those unions in which they have the same privileges as men, and at least two unions had women presidents. In six years the number of women organised was increased from 74,000 to 203,574. In other more or less philanthropic or anti-Socialist unions there were some 70,000 women members in 1911, making in that year a total of 273,574 female trade unionists in Germany. In the free trade unions the women are taught that "their further development is bound eventually to lead them to full equality of both sexes and to the complete emancipation of the working classes."

In this country at no time have we had more than a few thousand women organised in trade unions. The failure can honestly be blamed on the male trade unions, which ought to have placed their organising machinery at the disposal of women. If we are to avoid a sex war and combine men and women in the common struggle against capitalism, then the trade unions must recognise that it is their business to organise women as well as men. Men and women workers are members of the same class, and therefore should be combined in the same economic organisations.

TWO MOTHERS

The priest stopped: "I live here," he said. "Will you come in and rest a few minutes?"

He went across the hall with its cold stone floor into a pleasant clean room; bare except for a table, some books and a few chairs—a small fire burned cheerfully, and I took the seat he offered.

We talked of the poor and their troubles—and the many sad stories he listened to in his study. "Are you not depressed," I said, "hearing always of sorrows you cannot remove?" "But I can help, sometimes," he said. "I will tell you what happened the other day."

I settled more comfortably in my chair—and he continued: "One night a respectable-looking woman asked to see me; she seemed very unhappy, and told me she did not care to live any longer. When I asked what troubled her so deeply, she said, 'I don't know if you will understand, Father. I have a kind husband and a good home, but no little child to love; the years are passing and I am in despair. I thought perhaps you might know of a little orphan. I must have a baby from somewhere.' The poor woman looked restless and haggard, consumed by the mother-love for which there was no outlet. I told her I would make enquiries, and find a homeless child if possible.

"When I made my usual visit to the workhouse, there was a young girl whose baby was only a few weeks old. The Matron told me she would return to work soon, but the problem was how to dispose of the child. Would I advise them? I spoke to the girl. 'When you return to work, what must become of your baby?' Then I told her of the good home and the love waiting in the heart of the poor woman who felt she must die if her prayers were not granted. 'Would you give her this baby?'

"The colour came to her thin, pale cheeks, and she said slowly, in a low voice, 'Yes—I think I would.'

"The week after that I arranged for the two women to meet here; they came, and the young mother handed her child to the other, kissed it, and went soon afterwards. The married woman left with her treasure—carrying him with much tenderness and satisfaction.

"The next day she called again in great distress. 'I've lost the baby,' she said. 'As I walked home last night the mother started out from a dark entry—she had been watching for me—and she asked to hold the baby once more. I placed it in her arm, she kissed it again and again, and cried so bitterly; said she could not give it up—she meant to—but it was too hard—she would rather drown herself. So after some time I let her have it—I couldn't help it. She ran away fast, and soon got out of sight, afraid that I might try and get it back. What must I do, Father?' She lifted the corner of her apron to her eyes.

"I promised to try to find the girl, for I knew she must either beg or starve; and late that night I traced her to some very poor lodgings, where she sat on a low stool crooning and holding her baby tightly to her breast. There was no fire and only a straw mattress in the corner.

"I talked gently to her, and showed her that no work was possible unless the child was provided for.

"She promised to come again and carry out her agreement. This time the baby changed hands, and the new mother has a child to love and work for—his smile and the grasp of his little fingers are her reward."

But the real mother is hard at work all day; and when she steals up to her attic tired out, she thinks of her own baby in his cradle by another woman's bedside, and cries herself to sleep. She wakes in the night and feels for him—her hands grasp nothing. She sleeps again and dreams she hears him crying for her.—MARY CROSLAND TAYLOR.

MR. ASQUITH AS AN HONEST MAN

FROM A SOLDIER IN BELGIUM.

Reading the "Daily Chronicle," my eye caught a letter signed by several notorious anti-suffragists of pre-War days. In it they were, as usual, howling out the old parrot cry that women should not be given the vote; that the fact of them having given of their services to their country in time of need should not be taken into account; and that for Parliament to alter the franchise laws and introduce so far-reaching a reform as extending the franchise to women would be quite unfair and unconstitutional, seeing that the bulk of the electorate are away fighting on the various fronts. According to Cromer, Curzon and Co., the women can keep the industries of England going, and do almost any work (which, before the War, our anti friends said they could not do), yet they are still incapable of voting. Absolute rot! Our staunchest anti-suffragist in Parliament, Mr. Asquith, has had to admit that if the vote is to be extended, it must also be extended to women, and I believe he was sincere when he said so, like an honest man. He has not hesitated to admit openly that he is wrong and has given in. Not so Curzon and Cromer, ever conservative, still clinging to ancient prejudices and arguments. Of course, all sensible and unbiassed persons will now admit the justice of the women's claims; they cannot very well ignore it.

Curzon, Cromer and Co. say it would be unfair and unconstitutional to extend the franchise or make any alteration whatever whilst three parts of the electors are away fighting. But if it is unjust and unconstitutional to bring in any reform because the electors are absent, why have the Government seen fit to make such a new law as Conscription? They could have taken the votes of the men in the trenches and at home, as was done for Australia; but they did not. We can very well guess why (witness Australia's result of ballot for Conscription). Another question to Curzon and Cromer. The women of the country have made the supreme sacrifice of giving of their all and their dearest in this War of a world gone mad. They are going short of the necessities of life, and economising at great suffering and hardship to themselves and their little children. Greedy, callous, profit-mongers are getting richer and fatter at the expense of the poor. Homes are being broken up, food is getting scarcer, and brave hearts are being broken over the loss of dear ones. Little children are crying for daddy and bread. This does not trouble Curzon or Cromer. They do not feel the pinch of hunger; they do not go short of money. Whilst they still grab the enormous pensions paid them by a grateful (if not stupid) country, all they are concerned about during this bloody War is that women shall not get the vote! If our anti friends (or enemies, if you like) cannot turn their voices and pens to things that matter, instead of bleating forth such rank cant and humbug, it is a pity that they cannot keep their mouths shut—during the War, at any rate.

We shall be delighted if Mr. Asquith will live up to our correspondent's idea of him, and are forwarding him a copy of this letter.

Come to the Caxton Hall Exhibition! DECEMBER 7th, 8th and 9th

"MILITARY NECESSITY"—(Continued from Page 614).

vigorous coercion to prevent any pacifist, industrial, or other propaganda displeasing to the Government and its dictator will be the order of the day.

Mr. Henderson provided the key to his inclusion in the Cabinet when he said the other night at Southampton:

"Germany has gone a step further. Are we going to accept that challenge? There is nothing we need so much in this country as the entire organisation of the nation for the winning of the war. I mean the service of persons should be placed at the disposal of the State for the service of the War."

Mr. Henderson added that if the whole of the manhood and womanhood of the nation were organised:

"We should secure a volume of effort which would give us a certain expectation of victory."

But victory was promised in return for the conscription of the unmarried man, and still there is no sign of the ending of the War. Indeed, the situation grows daily more gloomy. Mr. Henderson tells us that "by the summer of 1917 the man power and munition power of Great Britain will be at its highest." So the people are carried on from season to season, from year to year, from "Spring Offensive" to "Big Push"!

It is probable that when the "Ginger Group" has gained control, as now appears to be certain, as the months go by and the decisive victory unattainable by either side, recedes further and further from us, the Liberal Cabinet Ministers who made the War and the alliances and policy that provoked it, and who, during these past two years have appealed to our patriotism with so many bellicose utterances, will come forward in the guise of gentle pacifists, preaching the gospel of universal brotherhood and love.

Then, with their old tricksters' ways they will seek permission of the people to enter into Peace negotiations, consulting and bargaining with the Ginger Group behind the scenes, and with them committing the country to another series of secret alliances.

Good people, will you have it so, or will you demand a speedy ending of the War and the establishment of a people's peace?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

AN EDINBURGH DEMONSTRATION

A mass meeting of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage was held on Sunday evening, December 3rd, at the Oddfellows' Hall, Edinburgh, at which Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett presided. She said that the meeting was called to protest against any Register or Franchise Bill going through Parliament without the inclusion of women on equal terms with men. If adult suffrage were to be given to men, they would demand adult suffrage for women, and warned Parliament that they would resist to the death the conscription of women without women's consent, or any attempt at the re-introduction of any single provision of the Contagious Diseases Act.

Councillor Bruce Lindsay, J.P. (Edinburgh), said that he owed it as a duty to his dead wife to fight for the franchise, and he believed that when women obtained a voice in Parliament there would be a new heaven and a new earth for men.

Bailie Hamilton Brown, J.P. (Glasgow), said that before long, if the vote was denied to women, there would be a hurricane over the land, because votes for women was not a programme, it was a passion.

Councillor McMichael, J.P. (Edinburgh), said that this was not a political question, but a great religious question. The minority against it did not affect him, because the minority, like the poor, were always with us.

Councillor Dollan (Glasgow) said it was a misnomer to say that we had democracy in this country. Democracy was impossible while woman was a political serf of men. If soldiers were to have votes to help reconstruct the nation, the mothers of those soldiers had an equal right to a voice in the settlement. If the women of Europe had been consulted on the policy which brought about this War, it never could have come about. It was absolute folly on the part of the trade union movement of the country if they did not help women get the vote.

Mr. Robert Ferguson, Hon. Secretary of the Glasgow Centre, said the immoral man would continue to remain in the same position with regard to morals until the good woman put him in his place. We were out for something big, added he, something with far-reaching circumstances.

Mr. Andrew Young, M.A., said that no man could look his mother in the face and refuse her such a thing as a vote.

Mr. Brunton, Trustee of the Trades Council, Edinburgh, said Mr. Asquith had tried to break the spirit of the women of this country, but he had failed to do so.

Ex-Bailie Gordon said he believed that votes for women was coming fast, as Members of Parliament who had fiercely opposed it were now hurriedly coming over to the side of the women.

Mr. Wilson McLaren, Edinburgh Executive, N.M.F., moved a vote of thanks to the speakers.

VENEREAL DISEASES

A deputation consisting of eleven women's societies, and organised by the Women's Freedom League, on the subject of venereal diseases waited on the Home Secretary on Decmber 4th. The deputation, which was introduced by Mrs. Despard, opposed the introduction of anything in the nature of the C.D. Acts, compulsory notification or treatment, compulsory detention in prisons and Poor-law institutions, the spread of police supervision of girls, and the special penalising of prostitutes as being both useless and unjust. The deputation urged that the law of solicitation should be equalised for men and women; that the Vagrancy Act should be swept away; and that women patients should be given special facilities where a woman doctor is available.

It was also urged that the wilful transmission of venereal diseases should be a criminal offence. This suggestion we think less wise than the foregoing. It is frequently advocated on the ground that wives and children should be protected from profligate husbands, but we think there is small likelihood of wives assenting to the criminal prosecution of their husbands for such offences. Nine hundred and ninety-nine women out of a thousand would shrink from the scandal which such a prosecution would occasion. Moreover, a conviction would in a large number of cases result in the imprisonment of the breadwinner. In cases where a legal separation would be desired, that is less difficult, and a more acceptable way of dealing with the situation.

Certainly, in all but the exceptional cases, the wife will not lay information against her husband for such a prosecution, and if, as the deputation wish, there is to be no compulsory notification of venereal disease, there is likely to be none else to set the hounds of the law upon the man. The woman with whom he consorts out of wedlock will never do it; her position as a society's scorned outcast will not admit of it.

Where used at all, the power to punish would be used only against the defenceless woman who has taken to irregular ways of life. This will be only another useless stone cast against her. If obloquy and punishment could have reclaimed her she would long since have been made whole, but it cannot. To punish the prostitute who transmits disease would be wicked and cruel folly—of course she transmits disease; of course she receives it; those who wish to be immune must abstain from buying the wares she sells.

Not punishments, but economic changes are needed to end prostitution. The economic foundation for prostitution the deputation does not appear to have dealt with. But certainly there is no doubt that a woman who can obtain a comfortable living under free conditions in other ways will not continue selling herself to the hideous bondage of prostitution.

HOW AMERICAN WOMEN VOTED

The *Woman's Journal* of America, published at a time when the Presidential election returns were not complete, shows the percentage of the total vote which was cast by women and the percentage of women in the total adult population in six of the adult suffrage States. This table shows that in three out of the six States the right to vote was exercised by a larger proportion of women than of men; whilst in two other States the proportion of men and women voting was nearly equal:—

State	Percentage of vote cast by women	Percentage of women in adult pop.
Arizona	58.5	37.2
Illinois	45.4	47.3
Kansas	42.9	47.2
Montana	53.0	34.9
Nevada	24.7	31.1
Oregon	49.9	37.2

Send this information to your Member of Parliament.

THE WOMAN "CONGRESS-MAN-AT-LARGE"

Miss Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to secure election to the American Parliament, was chosen to represent, not a particular district, but the entire State of Montana as Congress-man-at-large. This meant that she had to campaign through the entire State. She was called an Independent Republican candidate, and her chief planks were child welfare and national woman's suffrage. She had to fight some of the Old Guard Republican leaders as well as the democrats.

Miss Rankin is 34 years of age. As the daughter of a Montana "pioneer," who went out there when the State was sparely populated, she is said to know how to "rough it." She is a college graduate and worked for suffrage in New York for a number of years. At that time she lived in a work girls' boarding house called The Junior League House in East Eighty-sixth Street, a slum quarter. When her friends realised that she would receive a salary of $7,500 (£1,500) a year as United States Representative, one of them said: "Jeannette won't have to live in a girl's hotel any more."

Miss Rankin twice appeared before the Montana State Legislature to plead for votes for women during the campaign which preceded the suffrage victory there.

* * * *

Three Californian women will be amongst the thirteen representatives of that State to sit in the Electoral College which will formally re-elect President Wilson next January. The electoral college was originally intended to choose the President as the people were not held to be capable of doing so, but the college has become wholely a matter of form, its members merely voting for the nominee of the party most powerfully represented in the College. The number of members of the Electoral College which each State shall have, is allocated according to population, not according to the number of electors. There is now a demand for the abolition of the College and the substitution of election by direct vote. When this is done the States which have doubled their electors by granting votes to women will have a distinct advantage.

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AT 7 p.m. - - - - - - DOORS OPEN AT 6.30
SPEAKERS
MRS. BOYCE, SYLVIA PANKHURST
MR. ROBERT WILLIAMS
CHAIR - - MRS. DRAKE
SUBJECTS:
"VOTES FOR ALL MEN AND WOMEN" *and*
"RECONSTRUCTION AFTER THE WAR"

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Inspected Invited—All Toys Exhibited at Caxton Hall Exhibition, December 7th, 8th, and 9th.

The action taken by the Joint Board, and the "Statement" issued by the Labour Party, which are referred to in the following pages, deserve a reply. Here it is, It is addressed to the entire Labour, Trade Union, and Socialist organisations of Great Britain. Study it well, and discuss it in your Societies, for the future well-being of the Working-Class Movement depends upon your verdict.

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PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

November 28th.—Mr. Snowden stated that Private H. Ansell was passed fit for service in October last, though he had recently spent six months in a tuberculosis sanatorium; and that William Brook Morton, a conscientious objector, is in the Northern General Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and is being forcibly fed, and that it is intended to let this man die rather than give him the exemption to which he is legally entitled.

Mr. Forster knew nothing; he would make inquiries.

* * * *

Arising out of questions on medical fees, Mr. Forster disclosed the fact that 2s. 6d. a head is paid for passing men into the Army, with a maximum of £2 per day, and that a certain amount had been recovered from doctors that had been paid for passing medically unfit men into the Army.

* * * *

Mr. Snowden alleged that men unfit for military service had been dismissed from the works of Loders and Micoline, Albert Mills, Hammersmith, and their places taken by women at a lower wage, though this is a controlled establishment.

Dr. Addison accounted for the action taken by explaining that instructions have been issued to employ women wherever the "nature of the work" permits their being appointed, in order to leave men available "for work of a class which cannot be performed by women." The wages paid to the women in the case in question are "in excess of those prescribed in Circular L2; the aggregate of their wages is greater than that paid to the men for whom they were substituted."

He omitted to state whether the output of work had been increased. If men now fail to see the urgency of demanding the same wages for women as for men, when this expediency dodge is used to get cheap labour, there can be no hope for them.

LLOYD GEORGE'S "PERSONAL INTEREST" IN "CRUCIFIXION."

Mr. Morrell asked for an assurance that the punishment of soldiers by the torture called "Crucifixion" should cease. Mr. Lloyd George replied that he is taking "a personal interest" in the matter, because "without discipline an Army becomes a mere mob." Captain Douglas Hill, with complete disregard of the facts, suggested that the chief punishment entailed in "crucifixion" is the ridicule of other men. Commander Wedgwood said that a degrading punishment loses its usefulness.

Mr. Lloyd George said he was examining French methods of discipline to ascertain whether they are more effective.

* * * *

Mr. Forster admitted that the War Department had purchased 3,900 tons of potatoes in Ireland since October 1st.

When the people are dying of famine these facts may be wanted!

* * * *

There were more unsuccessful requests for the name of the Food Controller.

* * * *

Mr. Herbert Samuel admitted that four Metropolitan policemen have been dismissed for joining a trade union. He say the police must not organise. We shall see!

Mr. McKinnon Wood stated that the extra 2s. 6d. to old-age pensioners, where granted, is already being paid to some of the old people. Delay is due to the great number of cases to be dealt with. Arrears will be paid. We shall be glad to assist old-age pensioners to whom the arrears are not paid.

* * * *

Mr. Jowett asked that Mr. C. H. Norman should be given facilities for conducting the litigation with Sir Charles Matthews and Sir William Nott-Bower, but got an evasive reply.

* * * *

Mr. Forster acknowledged that the nominal standard of work in the Army Pay Offices, Dublin, for the past year has been the same for male and female clerks. The average wage for male clerks is 39s. covering all time worked; of female clerks, 23s. 6d., with overtime pay in addition.

A wonderful salary certainly for a rich Government to pay! And in war-time, too!

BILLS RUSHED THROUGH.

The Registration of Business Names Bill, as amended, was considered and passed. Mr. J. Henderson moved to omit Clause 8 (Disability of Persons in Default). He took objection to the fact that in the case of a private firm which fails to register a new partner, anyone who has entered into a contract with the firm, and probably wants to be rid of it because of the falling market, can break the contract on the ground that had he known this man to be a member of the firm he would not have entered into it. The same proviso does not apply to limited liability companies. The House divided, with the result that 206 voted for the clause to stand part of the Bill and 31 against.

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A Local Government Emergency Provisions Bill was passed, which enables the payment of 4s. grants for pauper lunatics without further reference to the authorities.

* * * *

Soldiers and Sailors (Gifts of Land Settlement) Bill, which gives power to the State to accept a gift of land from subjects in this country, was read a second time.

MR. BERTRAND RUSSELL.

On the adjournment Mr. Trevelyan raised the question of the Government's treatment of Mr. Bertrand Russell. He accused the Government of giving a different story every time it speaks on this subject. He pointed out that Mr. Russell was never asked to give an undertaking not to engage in anti-British propaganda in order to go to America. He also drew attention to the confusion of the terms anti-Governmental and anti-British. The present Government regarded aspersions cast on it as anti-British! A letter was written by a General to Mr. Russell, telling him what to avoid talking about in a speech on "Social Reconstruction."

Mr. Lloyd George began his defence by being personal and uncomplimentary; he could give no excuse. He merely based his case on Mr. Russell's censored pamphlet. Then he brought Mr. Gladstone to his aid, saying it was he who made the Belgian Treaty, and he was prepared to go to war in defence of it. "This country has gone to war in pursuance of a treaty to defend a small nationality." He alleged that neither Mr. Trevelyan nor Mr. Bertrand Russell supported the War or Conscription.

Mr. Pringle joined in to say that men who did all they could to prevent the voluntary system being successful because they wanted to shackle the country with Conscription were not punished. The discussion came to an abrupt close.

* * * *

November 29th.—Mr. Houston pointed out that there is a strong feeling of resentment growing amongst the working classes in this country at the suggestion of the employment of coloured labour here.

Mr. Pringle said that the members of the Non-Combatant Corps in Boulogne have been removed from huts and put under canvas to make way for black labourers.

THE INTERNED IRISH.

Many questions were put about the Irish prisoners in Frongoch Camp. Mr. Byrne called for the medical examination of the present Commandant, who is in charge of 570 unarmed men. He further denounced the South Camp, where between 300 and 400 are confined as punishment, as unfit for human habitation. He complained that when the wife of one of the men confined there died recently the notice was not conveyed to him, but posted up in camp. Trivial offences, such as loitering on the corridors, are punished with fourteen days' bread and water.

Mr. Samuel defended the administration by a series of evasions, and said that the American Embassy reported favourably on the camp when it was occupied by German prisoners of war.

America should look into the reports which come from its Embassy in this country; they are not reliable.

* * * *

The fact of the great number of street accidents was attributed by Mr. Pringle to the absence of any eyesight test for the drivers.

OUTHWAITE CALLS FOR A CHRISTMAS ARMISTICE.

Mr. Outhwaite advocated an armistice at Christmas for the purpose of burying the dead lying between the lines on the Western Front, if only for sanitary reasons.

Mr. Forster said it was a matter lying entirely in the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief, and curtly refused to communicate with him.

The ghastly realities of warfare were dragged into light by this question. Members objected, and there were protesting cries.

* * * *

Sir J. Lonsdale stated that the Prime Minister of New Zealand had declared that an Imperial Council ought now to be established. Mr. Bonar Law had discussed the question with the Premiers of New Zealand, Australia, and Canada, but could make no statement.

* * * *

Mr. Bonar Law declared that the object of the platform campaign by Cabinet Ministers is to "impress upon the country the necessity of utilising all its available resources for the vigorous prosecution of the war."

What about the fear of the Peace party?

* * * *

Mr. Ginnell stated that in the Official Report it had been stated that he had been imprisoned for making a false statement, but, in fact, he had been convicted of writing his name in Gaelic.

A MONEY BILL.

The Government's War Obligations Bill was read a second time. Mr. McKinnon Wood explained that this Bill was necessary to sanction contracts which extend into future years, though the general practice of Parliament is to grant money and enter into commitments only for the current year. This Bill will bind subsequent Parliaments to carry out contracts and make payments entered into by Governments existing during the War. The contracts already entered into include payments to towns like Scarborough, which have suffered bombardment and other hardships, but it also includes payments to such doubtful ventures as the Anglo-Italian Bank and other private or semi-private commercial concerns. We think it a highly dangerous thing that a House of Commons blinded by War fever and restricted by War conditions as this is should be able to commit the nation to payments extending into future years. It appears to us that the pre-War powers of finance and procedure were sufficient to meet all the contingencies suggested on the Government's behalf.

Many members objected that no one knew to what the Bill would bind the House, and that Parliament was kept in the dark. The second reading was nevertheless agreed to.

INDUSTRIAL CONSCRIPTION OF THE UNFIT.

On the adjournment, Mr. MacCallum Scott raised the question of the new orders calling up for re-examination attested men who had been rejected as medically unfit. He pointed out that the order only gives immunity "for the present to men who have been re-examined since May 25th," and therefore have been already twice rejected. He asked whether there was to be no finality about the matter, and whether the Medical Boards were not competent to decide whether a man is, or is not permanently unsuitable for military service. He further pointed out that the promise to give men in certain groups two months' notice before calling them up is being broken, and cited from Hansard a promise made in reply to a Parliamentary question by Mr. Lloyd George.

Mr. Forster here interrupted to say that this was not an "authorised" promise, as Mr. Lloyd George was not then Secretary of State for War, but Minister of Munitions; but Mr. McCallum Scott pointed out that Mr. Lloyd George was answering that question upon the Prime Minister's behalf. Ministers ought really to be above such quibbling.

* * * *

Mr. W. C. Anderson stated that the new Orders had been issued for the purposes of industrial conscription. To this Mr. Forster replied that under the substitution scheme, if an employer has ten fit men, the Government gives ten substitutes, and should the men leave this employer—which they are at liberty to do—the Government is responsible for finding more. The Government should be held rigidly to this declaration.

SNOWDEN CRIES "SHAME."

November 30th.—Referring to telegrams interchanged between Mr. Taft and Viscount Grey on the subject of the League to Enforce Peace Meeting, Sir W. Byles asked: Does Germany agree to the same policy?

Lord R. Cecil: I do not know, and I do not very much care. Mr. Snowden: Shame, shame; it is disgraceful.

We entirely agree with Mr. Snowden.

* * * *

Mr. Herbert Samuel stated that there are 566 conscientious objectors at Wakefield. They are engaged in foundry work, weaving, building, the manufacture of mats and mailbags, vegetable growing, and bootmaking and repairing.

* * * *

Mr. Byrne asked whether if the Irish prisoners at Frongoch are not released before Christmas they will be allowed out on parole.

Mr. Samuel: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. Ginnell spoke up for the English women interned in Aylesbury, but received no satisfaction.

* * * *

Mr. Snowden asked whether the Government, having taken over the Welsh coal mines, would guarantee a fixed profit to owners, leaving the cost of additional wages to be borne by the community. Mr. Runciman could not say.

Dr. Macnamara, in reply to the usual traitor-hunting questions, stated that Mr. Dickes is still engaged on the claim of deceased sailors' dependants. The Jingoes will oust him if they can!

* * * *

With regard to the questionnaire issued by Brigadier-General Grove in Birmingham, Mr. Lloyd George acknowledged that "the competent military authority would appear to have overstepped the border line, and he has been so informed."

This is the result of allowing militarism to get the upper hand.

PENSIONS APPEAL TRIBUNAL?

Mr. Cecil Harmsworth asked that provision for the establishment of an appeal tribunal should be introduced into the Pensions Bill.

Mr. Henderson replied that the question of an appeal is under consideration, but that no provision will be made under the Pensions Bill.

That decision ought to be altered. Send resolutions about it!

* * * *

The Board of Pensions Bill, now the Ministry of Pensions Act, 1916, was considered in Committee. It was decided that the Paymaster-General need not necessarily be the Pensions Minister, and Mr. Henderson promised to remove this clause from the Bill.

GREECE.

December 4th.—Lord Robert Cecil, on the subject of Greece, said: "The situation in Greece is one of extreme gravity. In spite of formal and repeated assurances of the Greek King and Government that no disturbances would be permitted, a most treacherous and unprovoked attack was made upon the Allied detachments landed by the French Admiral on Friday last. . . . . ."

The detachments landed to take by force the Greek artillery, which they had refused to give up! How can Lord Robert Cecil, who prides himself on his sense of honour, call this an unprovoked attack?

* * * *

Mr. Anderson stated that Tribunals are to be asked to instruct applicants passed for labour units or sedentary work at home or abroad to register themselves at the nearest Labour Exchange within fourteen days for the purpose of taking up industrial employment under the substitution scheme, and that in the event of a man refusing to register he would be called up for service.

Mr. Forster explained that the military representative meant that if the men failed to get work of national importance within the specified period they would be called to the colours.

Six of one and half a dozen of the other!

* * * *

Mr. Anderson said that David Kirkwood has been elected as a delegate to the annual conference of the Labour Party, and asked whether the authorities would undertake to let him go.

Mr. Primrose could not say at the time.

HALF-STARVED WOMEN.

In reply to Mr. Devlin, Mr. Duke said in regard to Belfast wages: "It appears that where women workers rely exclusively on their own resources, there is some distress owing to the high prices of food. Most of the female workers, however, have men in their families or are in receipt of separation allowances. The general position of affairs in Belfast is, I am informed, better than normal." The wealthy Belfast linen industry has been mainly built upon women's labour!

* * * *

The Prime Minister denied the assertion that "coloured labour is now being introduced into this country," but said that no statutory powers are required to enable the Government to do so.

If the blacks are not coming, why the appeal for £10,000 to build recreation huts for them?

* * * *

The Prime Minister was asked by Mr. Dillon to give the name of the Food Dictator. He replied that no such person existed, and that he did not like the word "dictator." He was probably thinking of Northcliffe! Then he went on to say that the King, on the advice that he had given him that morning, had agreed to the reconstruction of the Government.

* * * *

The Ministry of Pensions Bill was considered and read the third time and passed.

The House divided on an amendment to prevent the Minister of Pensions being a member either of the House or Cabinet, which would have largely deprived Parliament of the power to control the Pensions administration, it was negatived by 188 votes to 30.

* * * *

The Greek question was again raised by Mr. Lynch. He accused the Government of drifting to defeat.

FOREIGN NEWS

The "New York Herald" says: "It is little short of a national scandal that women should be allowed to vote in some States and not in others."

We would apply the same description to the fact that women can vote in some parts of the British Empire and not in others.

* * * *

"Berner Tagwacht," November 22nd, 1916:—

"The Swiss Federal Council has advised the Swiss Ambassador in Berlin to inform the German Chancellor that the mass deportation of Belgian workers to Germany has produced a very bad impression on the public opinion of Switzerland."

* * * *

On January 1st, 1917, in Norway an Act will come into force fixing a 10-hour working day, and providing that the working week shall not exceed 54 hours. In mines, foundries, and printing offices the working week cannot exceed 48 hours. Every worker must have at least an uninterrupted rest of 24 hours weekly.

* * * *

"Berner Tagwacht."—The Bulgarian Prime Minister, Radosslavow, at a meeting of the members of the Ministry, said: "A change in favour of our enemies is impossible, and the victory of the Central Powers certain. It is probable that the war will end without any special Peace Conference for direct mediation between the particular belligerents. I repeat what I said before at the Sobranje—the territory on which Bulgarian blood has been shed will remain in Bulgarian possession."

* * * *

"Vorwaerts," December 1st, 1916.—At the opening of the Duma, the President, Rodrianko, said: "Our enemy is already defeated, but, though he realises the defeat, he resists with desperate bitterness."

* * * *

In the "Journal de Genève," Illia Milkitsch, a citizen from Belgrade, appeals to the public and to the Allied Governments to spare the remainder of the Serbian Army and not to send the last Serbian troops into the front lines, where they are exposed to destruction, for "if the last representatives of the nation are sent into the firing line, in the future there will be no Serbs left on the territory called Serbia to-day."

THE
WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

Entrance Fee ... ... 1d.

Minimum Subscription... 1d. a month

LONDON MEETINGS.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th.
Poster Parade, 11.30 a.m., 5 Duke Street, Adelphi.
"Abbey Arms," Barking Road, 12 (noon), Mrs. Boyce.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th.
Poster Parade, 11.30 a.m., 5 Duke Street, Adelphi.
Custom House, 12 (noon), Miss Price.
Deptford Broadway, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th.
Osborn Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Greengate, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
The Grove, Stratford, 11.30 a.m., Joint Meeting with N.C.F., Mrs. Walker.
Hyde Park, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Leigh Rothwell. Chair: Mrs. Bouvier.
Cannon Street Road, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Lees Hall, Barking Road, 7 p.m., Public Meeting.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th.
"Whitehouse," Canning Town, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12th.
White Cross Street, 1 p.m., Miss Price.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13th.
53 St. Leonard's Street, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15th.
Deptford Broadway, 1 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Bow Women's Hall, 7.45 p.m., Lecture; Discussion.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th.
Cardigan Road, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Lewisham Market Place, 2 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Grundy Street, 3 p.m., Miss Price.
Acton Market Place, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th.
Hyde Park, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Public Meeting.

* * * *

We wish to make a strong appeal to W.S.F. members and all DREADNOUGHT readers to support the speakers at the open-air meetings advertised in the paper. Only speakers know the help and confidence that a speaker gains by finding that friends have come to the meeting place to stand by and to show their genuine enthusiasm for the cause. Moreover, much more literature can be sold if friends will lend a hand.

W.S.F. BRANCHES

LONDON.

Barking.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Langford, Ailsa Craig, 97 Essex Road.

Bow.—400 Old Ford Road, E. Secretary: Miss Price. DREADNOUGHT sales week ending December 2nd, 657. Miss Harriet, 202; Miss O'Brien, 150; Mrs. Holloway, 89; Mrs. Greer, 54; Mrs. Walker, 32; Miss Mackay, 30; general, 100.

Bromley.—53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood. Branch meeting alternate Mondays at 7 p.m.

Canning Town.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

Enfield and Edmonton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Beavis, 171 Church Street, Lower Edmonton.

Golder's Green.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Clapson, 44 Erskine Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.

Leyton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road.

Poplar.—20 Railway Street, E. DREADNOUGHT sales, 78.

St. Pancras.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Redgrove, 191 Camden Road, N.W.

Willesden.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Shepherd, 141 Villiers Road.

PROVINCES.

Birmingham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A. F. Boden, 10 Sandhurst Road, Moseley.

Mr. Potter was unfortunately prevented from speaking at our meeting on November 29th, but Miss M. Haley kindly gave her lecture on "Internationalism." She will speak again on December 13th, at 7.30 p.m. in Stirchley Institute on the same subject. Members brought garments they had made to the meeting. These have been forwarded to Headquarters. Others are being completed.

Tidal Basin.—Hon. Sec., C. Drake, 49 Crediton Road, Tidal Basin, E.

Bradford.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. McHale, 12 Airedale College Terrace.

Brynmawr and Nantyglo.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hayward, Coedcae, Garn Fack.

Chester-le-Street.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Faulkner, 14 Hilda Terrace, South Pelaw, Durham.

Chopwell.—Hon. Sec.: V. M. Hardy, Esq., 18 Severn Street, Durham.

Cornsay and Quebec.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Miss Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross. Branch meeting, Monday at 197 High Street, Cornsay. This branch, the oldest provincial child of the Federation, is holding a stall of its own at the Exhibition. It hopes to send at least one delegate to Conference.

Durham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss C. Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross.

Ferryhill.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruby Stoddart, 12 Hackworth Street, Dean Bank.

Glasgow.—Hon. Sec.: Lachlan Smith, Esq., 126 Bothwell Street. Branch meets Fridays at Charing Cross Halls.

Leeds.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hunter, 7 Sugdenfold, Armley.

Leicester.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hill, 12 Sweetbriar Road.

Medomsley.—Hon. Sec.: Tom Orr, Esq., 6 Derwent Cottages, Durham.

Nottingham.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hough, 3 Chandos Avenue, Netherfield.

Portsmouth.—Hon. Sec.: Miss L. Whitehead, 6 Northumberland Road, Southsea. Branch meets alternate Wednesdays, 8 p.m., Trades Hall, Fratton Road.

Prudhoe-on-Tyne.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parks, 4 Riding Terrace, Mickley Square.

Sheffield.—Hon. Sec: Mrs. Manoin, 98 Gell Street. Members' meetings are held every Friday evening at Wentworth Café, 7.30 p.m.

Southampton.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Helsby, 77 Tennyson Road.

York: Huddersfield, Rotherham, Wakefield.—Organiser: Miss Stephen, c/o Mrs. Gee, 15 Springwood Terrace, Huddersfield.

W.S.F. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The final lecture of the Friday evening series on Economics, Trade Unionism, History of Socialism, National Guilds, &c., will take place at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E., on Friday evening, December 15th, at 7.45. **Speaker: Professor Masaryk, on "Tolstoi's Philosophy of Religion."** Chair: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

Lees Hall, Barking Road, Public meeting on Human Suffrage and Reconstruction after the War, Sunday, December 10th, 7 p.m. (doors open at 6.30). Speakers: Mrs. Boyce, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. Robert Williams. Chair: Mrs. Drake. Admission free.

Sunday, December 17th, Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Public Meeting. Mr. H. J. Lane, "Spare the Rod and Save the Child." Chair: Mrs. Boyce. Music. Refreshments at popular prices. Admission free.

Monday, December 18th, 8 p.m., Bow Women's Hall, General Meeting.

THE BOW CHOIR.

A singing class to form a choir is held every Wednesday evening at 7.15 p.m. at Bow Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road. Mdlle. Espagne has kindly undertaken the tuition. All women are invited to join. Charge, 2d. each lesson.

Members of the W.S.F will sympathise very deeply with our dear comrade Patricia Lynch in the loss of her brother who died on December 4th after a long illness.

Henry Patrick Lynch was a devoted Suffrage Worker and our East London branches know him well as an outdoor speaker.

CHANDOS HALL

At Chandos Hall on November 30th Mrs. Zangwill said that the men who made wars were the "bankrupt creditors of the mothers of the race." Although trade was prosperous, as is usual during all wars, terrible depression would come afterwards. All Europe is living, or rather dying, on tick. If we had ready-money wars it would go a long way towards stopping wars. No soldier coming home from the front talks of the "glory" of war; soldiers only want to forget it. The one thing worse than having one's child killed by a bomb is having his death avenged. Women do not know how we are going to "pick up the pieces" after this War; they are sick of picking up pieces, and they must have the vote, so that they need not do it any more. The Rev. William Piggott gave an interesting address on "The Tyranny of the Expert."

CORRESPONDENCE

Gamage Hall,
Dymock, Glos.

Dear Editor,—As a reader of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT since the commencement, I am anxious to help to build up the DREADNOUGHT Fund, and I hope that other readers may be willing to join me in doing so.

I therefore suggest that we should collect a New Year's gift for the DREADNOUGHT Fund in the shape of an annual guarantee fund of £500. I suggest that those who join the fund should guarantee to provide £10 a year, either as a gift or a collection.

I hope other readers will join me in this scheme.

Yours, etc.,
ALICE M. BUCHAN.

* * * *

One of our readers has sent us 6s. 3d. made by selling wastepaper, and she suggests that other readers of the DREADNOUGHT should do the same, and so swell the DREADNOUGHT Fund. We hope that many of our friends will follow this excellent advice.

LOOTING IN SOHO!

Dear Comrade,—On Sunday, November 26th, over fifty soldiers in uniform, with several officers and detectives, invaded the premises of the Communist Working Men's Club. Two hundred soldiers or more filled the street. In a bullying manner the invaders compelled the English secretary of the club to take them from room to room. The soldiers opened or broke open the cellars, damaged the doors and the walls, took whisky, rum, wine, and other liquors, and drank freely. All present were thoroughly searched, in many instances with brutal indignities, the clothes of many being torn by the soldiers in the process. All the papers found in the pockets of all the members present were taken away, so that they were left even without their registration cards. The soldiers took away not only the books and documents of the club, but also watches, rings, and other belongings of persons present—a stick with silver handle, a lady's hair comb, and so on. Cupboards, cases, billiard cues, etc., were wantonly broken or spoilt. If the uniformed invaders did this in Soho, one wonders what they would do in an enemy's country. One of the officers, to explain their behaviour, said: "It is war-time." One wonders why war against Germany justifies looting in Soho. As an International Socialist, struggling against Imperialism and Militarism in all countries, I should like to know for what "freedom, justice, and civilisation" were the looters fighting who showed their courage against whisky bottles and disarmed Socialists in the heart of London. Who is responsible for this outrage?—Yours, GEORGE TCHITCHERINE.

ADULT SUFFRAGE.

A Delegate Conference of the Adult Suffrage Joint Committee will be held at Chandos Hall (Maiden Lane, Strand), at 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 10th.

£10 A WEEK.

Lady Parsons, at the Women's Institute the other day, said that some women in engineering shops are earning £9 or £10 a week.

We challenge Lady Parsons to produce the names of the establishments in which women are earning such wages and to state the nature of the work they are doing.

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Mrs. Bernard Shaw, £15; Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, £5; S. M. Holden, Esq., £2; E. F. Errington, Esq., 10s.; Anon, 5s.; Anon (Burnley), per Miss S. Pankhurst, 6d. COLLECTIONS: Mrs. Walker, 19s. 4d.; Chandos Hall, 9s. 9½d.; Australian Soldier in Hyde Park, 5s.; Stratford Meeting, 3s. 11½d.; Bow Women's Hall, 1s. 11d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Anon, 5s.; COLLECTION: Working Women of Wood Green per Mrs. Heathcote, 2s. 6d.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Mrs. McThoraith, £2 2s.; Mrs. Reyersbach, £2; the Misses Gulland (monthly), £1 17s.; R. R. Cowderoy, Esq. (monthly), £1 1s.; Mrs. Bevan (monthly), £1; Contessa Isolani (monthly), £1; Nurse Hebbes, 12s.; A. Braff, Esq., 10s.; Miss F. H. Atkinson, 10s.; Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly), 5s.; the Misses Barrowman (monthly), 5s.; Four Northern Friends, 4s. 6d.; Miss E. V. Bulloch (2s. monthly), 4s.; D. Wilkie, Esq. (monthly), 2s. 6d.; Mr. J. Tobin, 2s.; Mrs. Mackenzie Kennedy, 1s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool Room, £1 9s. 4d.; the Misses Lagsding and Lynch (Green's Yard), 15s. 6½d.; Mrs. Wood (sale of clothes), 10s. 6d.; Miss K. Lagsding and Nurse Connolly (Cubitt Town), 7s. 2½d.; Mrs. Canty and Mr. Martin, 4s.; Milk Churn, 2s. 11½d.; Letchworth W.S.P.U., 2s.; Miss L. Whitehead, 1s. 9d.; Albert Knierien (box), 6d.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Miss Bush, Miss L. Edger, Miss Tabb.

EXHIBITION.—L. Coleman, Esq., £5; J. E. Phillips, Esq., 10s.; Miss Annie B. Howlett, 2s. 3d.; Sir George Power, 2s.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Durham W.S.F., Miss Hudson, Miss M. A. Barker, Letchworth W.S.P.U., Miss D. S. Palmer, Birmingham W.S.F.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

THE MOTHERS' ARMS,
438 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

DENTAL CLINIC.
20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR
(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Wednesdays, 3 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 ST. LEONARD'S STREET, BROMLEY-BY-BOW.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

COST PRICE RESTAURANTS at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

WANTS.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctoring and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain the nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woolen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants, flowers and branches for all our centres and for the L.C.C. schools. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly. We also need vegetables and fruit.

More cupboards are needed at all our centres.

Nurse needs empty medicine bottles at her dispensary.

Health Talks to Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

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INFANT MORTALITY.

The mortality of Russian babies has greatly increased owing to the War. In Moscow, 320 infants died in 1915 and 480 in 1916. The figures are much worse in Siberia, where, owing to the bad food, lack of doctors and care and measures against epidemics, the mortality of the infants is enormous. In an asylum in Irkutsk in 1915, 393 infants died out of 464, and in the first seven months in 1916, 446 out of 538.

W.S.F. PAMPHLETS
PUBLISHED AT 400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E

"Mothers' Pensions"
An account of what ought properly to be called Child Pensions, as administered in 27 out of 48 States of America. Price 1d. 9d. per dozen.

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Notes and Views on the Report of the National Birthrate Commission, by E. Sylvia Pankhurst. Price 1d 9d. per dozen

"The Execution of an East London Boy"
including his letters to his Mother ½d. each. 1/3 per hundred

Bound Volumes I and II of "Woman's Dreadnought" shortly ready, price 6/6 each. To be obtained at 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.

W.S.F. REPORT OF SOCIAL WORK IN 1915. PRICE 2d. ILLUSTRATED.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED, a WOMAN, willing to take entire charge of baby one month old. Mother at business. No housework.—Apply, Box 400.

WANTED, LEARNER for East London Toy Factory—Apply, 45 Norman Road, Bow, E.

FRENCH LADY, widow, speaks and writes English, seeks WORK, in or near Tooting preferred, not clerical.—Apply, Box 10, this Office.

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d.—Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

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